

House Study Bill 633 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON WHEELER)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act requiring primary elections for the nomination of
2 candidates for city, school district, and merged area
3 elections, and including applicability provisions.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 43.24, subsection 1, paragraph b,
2 subparagraph (4), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

3 (4) Those filed with the city clerk or the secretary of
4 the school board under this chapter, at least thirty-six days
5 before the city or school primary election.

6 Sec. 2. Section 43.24, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended
7 by adding the following new paragraph:

8 NEW PARAGRAPH. *d.* Objections filed with the secretary of
9 the school board shall be considered by three members of the
10 school board against whom no objection exists chosen by the
11 school board by ballot, and a majority decision shall be final.

12 Sec. 3. Section 43.78, subsection 1, paragraph f, Code 2024,
13 is amended to read as follows:

14 *f.* For any other partisan office filled by the voters of a
15 subdivision of a county, by those members of the party's county
16 central committee who represent the precincts lying within that
17 district, who shall be convened or reconvened as appropriate by
18 the county party chairperson. ~~However, this paragraph shall~~
19 ~~not apply to partisan city offices in special charter cities~~
20 ~~for which candidates are nominated under this chapter, but such~~
21 ~~ballot vacancies shall be filled as provided by section 43.116.~~

22 Sec. 4. Section 43.112, Code 2024, is amended to read as
23 follows:

24 **43.112 Nominations in certain cities and school districts.**

25 1. This chapter shall, so far as applicable, govern the
26 nominations of candidates by political parties for all offices
27 to be filled by a direct vote of the people in cities acting
28 ~~under a special charter in 1973 and having a population of~~
29 ~~over fifty thousand, except all such cities as choose by~~
30 ~~special election to conduct nonpartisan city elections under~~
31 ~~the provisions of chapter 44, 45, or 376. An election on the~~
32 ~~question of conducting city elections in such a special charter~~
33 ~~city on a nonpartisan basis may be called by the city council~~
34 ~~on its own initiative, and shall be called by the council upon~~
35 ~~receipt of a petition of the voters which so requests and~~

1 ~~is presented in conformity with section 362.4, but a special~~
2 ~~election on that question shall be held concurrently with any~~
3 ~~election being held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday~~
4 ~~in November of any odd-numbered year and school districts.~~

5 2. Sections 43.114 through 43.118 shall apply only to all
6 cities to which ~~this chapter~~ is made applicable by this section
7 and school districts.

8 Sec. 5. Section 43.114, Code 2024, is amended to read as
9 follows:

10 43.114 Time of holding ~~special charter city or school~~
11 district primary.

12 In ~~special charter cities and school districts~~ holding a
13 city or school district primary election under the provisions
14 of section 43.112, the primary shall be held on the first
15 Tuesday in October of the year in which regular city or school
16 district elections are held.

17 Sec. 6. Section 43.115, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended
18 to read as follows:

19 1. All candidates for nominations to be made in city primary
20 elections held pursuant to section 43.112 shall file nomination
21 papers with the city clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. forty days
22 before the date of the election as established by section
23 43.114, except that candidates for precinct committee member
24 shall file affidavits of candidacy as required by section
25 ~~420.130~~ 376.16. The number of eligible electors signing
26 petitions required for printing the name of a candidate upon
27 the official primary ballot shall be one hundred for an office
28 to be filled by the voters of the entire city and twenty-five
29 for an office to be filled by the voters of a subdivision of the
30 city.

31 Sec. 7. Section 43.115, Code 2024, is amended by adding the
32 following new subsection:

33 NEW SUBSECTION. 1A. All candidates for nominations to be
34 made in school district primary elections held pursuant to
35 section 43.112 shall file nomination papers with the secretary

1 of the school board no later than 5:00 p.m. forty days before
2 the date of the election as established by section 43.114. The
3 number of eligible electors signing petitions required for
4 printing the name of a candidate upon the official primary
5 ballot shall be twenty-five for a seat to be filled by the
6 voters of the entire school district and ten for a seat to be
7 filled by the voters of a director district.

8 Sec. 8. Section 43.116, Code 2024, is amended to read as
9 follows:

10 **43.116 Ballot vacancies in ~~special charter city~~ and school**
11 **district elections.**

12 1. A vacancy on the ballot for an election at which city
13 officers or school board members are to be chosen, and for
14 which candidates have been nominated under **this chapter**, exists
15 when any political party lacks a candidate for an office to be
16 filled at that election because:

17 *a.* Either no person filed at the time required by section
18 43.115 as a candidate for the party's nomination for that
19 office in the city or school primary election held under
20 section 43.112, or all persons who did so subsequently withdrew
21 as candidates, were found to lack the requisite requirements
22 for the office, or died before the date of the city or school
23 primary election, and no candidate received a number of
24 write-in votes sufficient for nomination under **section 43.53**;
25 or

26 *b.* The person nominated in the city or school primary
27 election as the party's candidate for that office withdrew
28 by giving written notice to that effect to the city clerk or
29 secretary of the school board not later than 5:00 p.m. on the
30 day of the canvass of that city or school primary election.

31 2. A ballot vacancy as defined by **this section** may be
32 filled by the city or school district central committee of
33 the party on whose ticket the vacancy exists or, in the case
34 of an officer elected by the voters of a district within the
35 city or school district, by those members of the committee who

1 represent the precincts lying within that district. The name
2 of a candidate so designated to fill such a ballot vacancy
3 shall be submitted in writing to the city clerk or school
4 district not later than 5:00 p.m. on the seventh day following
5 the city or school primary election.

6 3. If a special election is held to fill a vacancy in an
7 elective city office or school board seat, nominations by
8 political parties shall be made following the provisions of
9 subsection 2.

10 Sec. 9. Section 43.118, Code 2024, is amended to read as
11 follows:

12 **43.118 Expense.**

13 1. The entire expense of conducting the city primary
14 election and preparation of election registers shall be audited
15 by the city council and paid by the city.

16 2. The entire expense of conducting the school primary
17 election and preparation of election registers shall be audited
18 by the school board and paid by the school district.

19 Sec. 10. Section 45.1, subsection 9, paragraph a, Code 2024,
20 is amended to read as follows:

21 ~~a. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 10, in~~
22 In cities having a population of twenty-five thousand or
23 greater according to the most recent federal decennial census,
24 nominations may be made by nomination papers signed by not less
25 than seventy-five eligible electors who are residents of the
26 city or ward.

27 Sec. 11. Section 45.1, subsection 10, Code 2024, is amended
28 by striking the subsection.

29 Sec. 12. Section 49.31, subsection 2, paragraph d, Code
30 2024, is amended to read as follows:

31 ~~d.~~ On the regular and special city election and school
32 election ballots the names of candidates for city, school
33 district, and merged area offices shall be arranged by drawing
34 lots for position. ~~The commissioner shall hold the drawing on~~
35 ~~the second business day following the deadline for filing of~~

1 ~~nomination papers or petitions under sections 260C.15, 277.4,~~
2 ~~and 376.4.~~ If a candidate withdraws, dies, or is removed
3 from the ballot after the ballot position of names has been
4 determined, such candidate's name shall be removed from the
5 ballot, and the order of the remaining names shall not be
6 changed.

7 Sec. 13. Section 50.48, subsection 1, paragraph a,
8 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as
9 follows:

10 The county board of canvassers shall order a recount of the
11 votes cast for a particular office or nomination in one or
12 more specified election precincts in that county if a written
13 request for a recount is made not later than 5:00 p.m. on the
14 third day following the county board's canvass of the election
15 in question. ~~For a city runoff election held pursuant to~~
16 ~~section 376.9, the written request must be made not later than~~
17 ~~5:00 p.m. on the day following the county board's canvass of~~
18 ~~the city runoff election.~~ The request shall be filed with the
19 commissioner of that county and shall be signed by either of
20 the following:

21 Sec. 14. Section 50.48, subsection 8, Code 2024, is amended
22 by striking the subsection.

23 Sec. 15. Section 69.12, subsection 1, paragraph b,
24 subparagraph (2), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

25 (2) ~~The candidate filing deadline specified in section~~
26 ~~376.4 for the regular city election or the filing deadline~~
27 ~~specified in section 372.13, subsection 2, for a special city~~
28 ~~election.~~

29 Sec. 16. Section 260C.15, subsections 2 and 3, Code 2024,
30 are amended to read as follows:

31 2. A candidate for member of the board of directors of a
32 merged area shall be nominated ~~by a petition signed by not~~
33 ~~less than fifty eligible electors of the director district~~
34 ~~from which the member is to be elected.~~ The petition shall
35 ~~state the number of the director district from which the~~

~~1 candidate seeks election, and the candidate's name and status
2 as an eligible elector of the director district. Signers of
3 the petition, in addition to signing their names, shall show
4 their residence, including street and number if any, the school
5 district in which they reside, and the date they signed the
6 petition. A person may sign nomination petitions for more
7 than one candidate for the same office, and the signature
8 is not invalid solely because the person signed nomination
9 petitions for one or more other candidates for the office. The
10 petition shall include the affidavit of the candidate being
11 nominated, stating the candidate's name and residence, and
12 that the individual is a candidate, is eligible for the office
13 sought, and if elected will qualify for the office as provided
14 in section 277.4.~~

15 3. ~~Nomination papers on behalf of candidates for member of
16 the board of directors of a merged area shall be filed with
17 the secretary of the board not earlier than seventy-one days
18 nor later than 5:00 p.m. on the forty-seventh day prior to
19 the election at which members of the board are to be elected.
20 On the day following the last day on which certificates of
21 nomination petitions can be filed, and no later than 5:00 p.m.
22 on that day, the secretary shall deliver all certificates
23 of nomination petitions so filed, together with the text of
24 any public measure being submitted by the board of directors
25 to the electorate, to the merged area's controlling county
26 commissioner of elections under section 47.2. That controlling
27 commissioner shall certify the names of candidates, and the
28 text and summary of any public measure being submitted to the
29 electorate, to all county commissioners of elections in the
30 merged area by the forty-second day prior to the election.~~

31 Sec. 17. Section 260C.15, subsection 4, paragraphs a and b,
32 Code 2024, are amended to read as follows:

33 a. ~~Objections to the legal sufficiency of a nomination
34 petition or to the eligibility of a candidate may be filed by
35 any person who would have the right to vote for a candidate for~~

1 the office in question.

2 *b.* The objection must be filed with the secretary of the
3 board at least forty-two days before the day of the election
4 at which members of the board are elected. When objections
5 are filed, notice shall immediately be given to the candidate
6 affected, addressed to the candidate's place of residence as
7 given on the candidate's affidavit, stating that objections
8 have been made to the ~~legal sufficiency of the petition or to~~
9 ~~the eligibility of the candidate, and also stating the time and~~
10 place the objections will be considered. The board secretary
11 shall also attempt to notify the candidate by telephone if
12 the candidate provided a telephone number on the candidate's
13 affidavit.

14 Sec. 18. Section 275.25, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code
15 2024, is amended to read as follows:

16 *b.* The election shall be conducted as provided in ~~section~~
17 ~~sections~~ 277.3~~7~~ and ~~nomination petitions shall be filed~~
18 ~~pursuant to section 277.4, except as otherwise provided in~~
19 ~~this subsection.~~ **Nomination petitions shall be filed with the**
20 ~~secretary of the board of the existing school district in which~~
21 ~~the candidate resides not less than twenty-eight days before~~
22 ~~the date set for the special school election. The secretary~~
23 ~~of the board, or the secretary's designee, shall be present in~~
24 ~~the secretary's office until 5:00 p.m. on the final day to~~
25 ~~file the nomination papers. The nomination papers shall be~~
26 ~~delivered to the commissioner no later than 5:00 p.m. on the~~
27 ~~twenty-seventh day before the election.~~

28 Sec. 19. Section 277.4, Code 2024, is amended by striking
29 the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

30 **277.4 Nominations — primary elections.**

31 Nominations shall be made by primary elections held pursuant
32 to sections 43.112 through 43.118 and 277.8 through 277.19.

33 Sec. 20. Section 277.5, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended
34 to read as follows:

35 1. Objections to the ~~legal sufficiency of a nomination~~

1 ~~petition or to the~~ eligibility of a candidate may be filed by
2 any person who would have the right to vote for a candidate for
3 the office in question. The objection must be filed with the
4 secretary of the school board at least forty-two days before
5 the day of the school election. When objections are filed
6 notice shall forthwith be given to the candidate affected,
7 addressed to the candidate's place of residence as given on the
8 candidate's affidavit, stating that objections have been made
9 to the legal sufficiency of the petition or to the eligibility
10 of the candidate, and also stating the time and place the
11 objections will be considered.

12 Sec. 21. NEW SECTION. **277.8 School district convention.**

13 Political parties in school districts shall hold a school
14 district convention within the school district on the second
15 Friday following the primary election. The school district
16 central committee shall set the time and place of the
17 convention and shall file the same in the office of the school
18 board at least ten days prior to the convention.

19 Sec. 22. NEW SECTION. **277.9 School district convention —**
20 **delegates elected.**

21 Delegates to school district conventions of their respective
22 political parties shall be elected at precinct caucuses held
23 at 8:00 p.m. on the third Monday in August of the same year in
24 which the school election is conducted. The precinct caucuses
25 shall be convened within the boundaries of each precinct at
26 places designated by the school district central committee.
27 The chairperson of the school district central committee shall
28 file with the school board a certified list of places where the
29 precinct caucuses will be held not later than ten days prior
30 to the date of the caucus and shall cause the time and place of
31 said caucus to be published in two newspapers within the school
32 district not later than ten days prior to the convening of the
33 precinct caucus.

34 Sec. 23. NEW SECTION. **277.10 School district convention**
35 **— chairperson and secretary.**

1 The school district precinct caucus shall elect, by a
2 majority vote of those present, a chairperson and secretary
3 who shall certify to the school district central committee
4 and school board the names and addresses of those elected as
5 delegates to the school district convention. The number of
6 delegates from each voting precinct shall be determined by
7 a ratio adopted by the respective political party's school
8 district central committee, and the chairperson of the school
9 district central committee shall file with the school board a
10 statement designating the number of delegates for each voting
11 precinct in the school district not less than twenty-five days
12 before the date of the precinct caucuses. If the chairperson
13 of the school district central committee fails to so act, the
14 county chairperson shall designate the number of delegates
15 to be elected from each voting precinct and shall cause such
16 information to be published in two newspapers within the school
17 district at least ten days prior to holding the precinct
18 caucuses.

19 Sec. 24. NEW SECTION. 277.11 School district convention
20 delegates — term.

21 The delegates shall hold office from the day following the
22 election for a period of two years.

23 Sec. 25. NEW SECTION. 277.12 School district precinct
24 candidates — affidavit of candidacy.

25 Candidates for school district precinct committee member
26 shall cause their names to be printed on the primary ballot by
27 filing an affidavit as provided for in section 43.18 with the
28 county commissioner of elections at least forty days prior to
29 the day fixed for conducting the primary election.

30 Sec. 26. NEW SECTION. 277.13 Members from each school
31 district precinct.

32 Two persons for each political party shall be elected from
33 each precinct to the school district central committee at
34 the primary election. They shall hold office for a period
35 of two years immediately following the adjournment of the

1 school district convention, or until their successors are duly
2 elected and qualified, unless sooner removed by the school
3 district central committee for failing to perform the duties
4 of committee members, incompetency, or failing to support the
5 ticket nominated by their respective party.

6 Sec. 27. NEW SECTION. 277.14 **School district committee**
7 **meetings — vacancies.**

8 The school district central committee shall commence
9 performing their duties on the day of the school district
10 convention and vacancies occurring therein may be filled by
11 the school district chairperson subject to confirmation of the
12 central committee.

13 Sec. 28. NEW SECTION. 277.15 **School district central**
14 **committee — returns of election.**

15 Election judges shall make returns of the election of
16 members of the school district central committee in the same
17 manner as returns are conducted for other officers except that
18 the election judges shall canvass the returns as to members
19 of the school district central committee, and certify the
20 results thereof to the county commissioner of elections with
21 the returns.

22 Sec. 29. NEW SECTION. 277.16 **School district central**
23 **committee — certified list of those elected.**

24 After the canvass of votes by the county board of
25 supervisors, the county commissioner of elections shall notify
26 the members of the school district central committee who have
27 been elected of the time and place of holding the school
28 district convention, and shall deliver a certified list of
29 those elected to the chairperson of their respective political
30 party's central committee in the school district on or before
31 the second Thursday following the primary election.

32 Sec. 30. NEW SECTION. 277.17 **School district convention —**
33 **elected delegates.**

34 The school district convention shall be composed of the
35 delegates elected at the last preceding school district

1 precinct caucus, and the secretary of the school board shall
2 forward a certified list of said elected delegates at least ten
3 days prior to the school district convention to the chairperson
4 of the school district central committee.

5 Sec. 31. NEW SECTION. **277.18 Duties of school board**
6 **secretary.**

7 The secretary of the school board shall keep a certified
8 list of delegates to the school district convention elected at
9 the precinct caucuses and a record of the precinct committee
10 members elected at the primary election. The secretary of the
11 school board shall maintain a current list of all members of
12 the school district central committee. The certified list and
13 records shall be maintained by the secretary of the school
14 district for at least two years subsequent to the election
15 of the delegates and precinct committee members and shall be
16 available for public inspection.

17 Sec. 32. NEW SECTION. **277.19 Applicable laws.**

18 All laws governing political parties and the nomination of
19 candidates in elections shall, as far as applicable, govern the
20 political parties and nomination and election of candidates in
21 school districts.

22 Sec. 33. Section 279.6, subsection 1, paragraph b,
23 subparagraph (1), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

24 (1) If within fourteen days after publication of a notice
25 required pursuant to paragraph "a" for a vacancy that occurs
26 more than one hundred eighty days before the next regular
27 school election, or after the filing period closes pursuant
28 to section 277.4, ~~subsection 1,~~ for the next regular school
29 election, there is filed with the secretary of the school board
30 a petition requesting a special election to fill the vacancy,
31 an appointment to fill the vacancy is temporary until a
32 successor is elected and qualified, and the board shall call a
33 special election pursuant to [section 279.7](#), to fill the vacancy
34 for the remaining balance of the unexpired term.

35 Sec. 34. Section 279.7, subsection 4, Code 2024, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2 4. ~~Nomination petitions~~ Nominations shall be filed made in
3 the manner provided in section 277.4, ~~except that the petitions~~
4 ~~shall be filed not less than twenty-five days before the date~~
5 ~~set for the election.~~

6 Sec. 35. Section 331.383, Code 2024, is amended to read as
7 follows:

8 **331.383 Duties and powers relating to elections.**

9 The board shall ensure that the county commissioner of
10 elections conducts primary, general, city, school, and special
11 elections in accordance with applicable state law. The board
12 shall canvass elections in accordance with sections 43.49
13 through 43.51, 43.60 through 43.62, 46.24, 50.13, 50.24 through
14 50.29, 50.44 through 50.47, 260C.39, 275.25, 277.20, 376.1,
15 and 376.7, ~~and 376.9~~. The board shall prepare and deliver a
16 list of persons nominated in accordance with section 43.55,
17 provide for a recount in accordance with section 50.48, provide
18 for election precincts in accordance with sections 49.3, 49.4,
19 49.6 through 49.8, and 49.11, pay election costs as provided
20 in section 47.3, participate in election contests as provided
21 in sections 62.1A and 62.9, and perform other election duties
22 required by state law. The board shall provide for the use of
23 an optical scan voting system as provided in sections 52.2 and
24 52.3, and exercise other election powers as provided by state
25 law.

26 Sec. 36. Section 376.3, Code 2024, is amended to read as
27 follows:

28 **376.3 Nominations.**

29 Candidates for elective city offices must be nominated as
30 provided in sections 376.4 through 376.9, ~~unless by ordinance~~
31 ~~a city chooses the provisions of chapter 44 or 45. However,~~
32 ~~a city acting under a special charter in 1973 and having a~~
33 ~~population of over fifty thousand shall continue to hold~~
34 ~~partisan elections as provided in sections 43.112 through~~
35 ~~43.118 and sections 420.126~~ 376.12 through ~~420.137, unless~~

1 ~~the city by election as provided in [section 43.112](#) chooses to~~
2 ~~conduct city elections under [this chapter](#) or [chapter 44](#) or [45](#)~~
3 ~~[376.23](#). The choice of one of these options by such a special~~
4 ~~charter city does not otherwise affect the validity of the~~
5 ~~city's charter. However, special charter cities which choose~~
6 ~~to exercise the option to conduct nonpartisan city elections~~
7 ~~may choose, in the same manner the original decision was made,~~
8 ~~to resume holding city elections on a partisan basis.~~

9 Sec. 37. Section 376.4, subsections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7,
10 Code 2024, are amended by striking the subsections.

11 Sec. 38. Section 376.4, subsection 6, Code 2024, is amended
12 to read as follows:

13 6. The city clerk shall deliver the text of any public
14 measure being submitted by the city council to the electorate
15 to the county commissioner of elections. ~~If the county~~
16 ~~commissioner has designated the city clerk to receive~~
17 ~~nomination papers for elective city offices pursuant to~~
18 ~~[subsection 1](#), the city clerk shall deliver the nomination~~
19 ~~papers accepted for filing to the county commissioner. The~~
20 text of any public measure ~~and nomination papers~~ required to
21 be delivered under [this subsection](#) shall be delivered no later
22 than the day after the last day on which nomination petitions
23 can be filed, and not later than 12:00 noon on that day.

24 Sec. 39. Section 376.5, Code 2024, is amended to read as
25 follows:

26 **376.5 Publication of ballot.**

27 Notice for each regular, special, primary, or runoff city
28 election shall be published by the county commissioner of
29 elections as provided in [section 362.3](#), except that notice of a
30 regular, primary, or runoff election may be published not less
31 than four days before the date of the election. The published
32 notice must list the names of all candidates, ~~and must not~~
33 ~~contain any party designations.~~ The published notice must
34 include any question to be submitted to the voters. The notice
35 may contain one or more facsimiles of the portion of the ballot

1 containing the first arrangement of candidates as prescribed
2 by [section 49.31, subsection 2](#).

3 Sec. 40. Section 376.7, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended
4 to read as follows:

5 1. ~~If a primary election is necessary, it~~ The primary
6 election shall be held on the Tuesday four weeks before the
7 date of the regular city election. For each office on the
8 ballot, a voter shall only vote for the number of persons to
9 be elected to that office at the regular city election. The
10 county board of supervisors shall publicly canvass the tally
11 lists of the vote cast in the primary election, following the
12 procedures prescribed in [section 50.24](#), at a meeting to be held
13 on the second day following the primary election, and beginning
14 no earlier than 1:00 p.m. on that day.

15 Sec. 41. Section 376.8, subsections 2 and 3, Code 2024, are
16 amended by striking the subsections.

17 Sec. 42. Section 376.11, subsection 2, Code 2024, is amended
18 to read as follows:

19 2. ~~Except in cities where the council has chosen a runoff~~
20 ~~election in lieu of a primary, following~~ Following the
21 resignation of a person who was elected by write-in votes,
22 the city clerk shall notify the person who received the next
23 highest number of votes cast for the office that the person
24 may assume the office. If there is more than one person who
25 received the next highest number of votes cast for the office,
26 lots shall be drawn pursuant to [section 50.44](#) to determine the
27 person who received the next highest number of votes. If the
28 person accepts the position, the person shall be considered the
29 duly elected officer unless, within ten days after the clerk
30 has given notice, a petition requesting a special election
31 is filed by eligible electors of the city equal in number to
32 twenty-five percent of the number of persons who voted for the
33 office at the election. If the person declines, the person
34 shall do so in writing to the city clerk within ten days and the
35 office shall be considered vacant at the end of the term. The

1 vacancy shall be filled pursuant to the provisions of section
2 372.13, subsection 2. If the council chooses to appoint, the
3 appointment may be made before the end of the current term.

4 Sec. 43. Section 376.11, subsections 4 and 5, Code 2024, are
5 amended by striking the subsections.

6 Sec. 44. Section 420.126, Code 2024, is amended to read as
7 follows:

8 **420.126 City convention.**

9 Political parties in ~~special charter cities having a~~
10 ~~population of fifty thousand or more~~ a city shall hold a city
11 convention within the city on the second Friday following the
12 primary election. The city central committee shall set the
13 time and place of the convention and shall file the same in
14 the office of the city clerk at least ten days prior to the
15 convention.

16 Sec. 45. Section 420.137, Code 2024, is amended to read as
17 follows:

18 **420.137 Applicable laws.**

19 All laws governing political parties and the nomination of
20 candidates in elections shall, as far as applicable, govern the
21 political parties and nomination and election of candidates
22 in cities ~~acting under a special charter in 1973 and having a~~
23 ~~population of fifty thousand or more, except where such a city~~
24 ~~by election chooses to conduct city elections under [chapter 44](#),~~
25 [45](#), or [376](#).

26 Sec. 46. CODE EDITOR DIRECTIVE.

27 1. The Code editor is directed to make the following
28 transfers:

- 29 a. Section 420.126 to section 376.12.
- 30 b. Section 420.127 to section 376.13.
- 31 c. Section 420.128 to section 376.14.
- 32 d. Section 420.129 to section 376.15.
- 33 e. Section 420.130 to section 376.16.
- 34 f. Section 420.131 to section 376.17.
- 35 g. Section 420.132 to section 376.18.

1 h. Section 420.133 to section 376.19.

2 i. Section 420.134 to section 376.20.

3 j. Section 420.135 to section 376.21.

4 k. Section 420.136 to section 376.22.

5 l. Section 420.137 to section 376.23.

6 2. The Code editor shall correct internal references in the
7 Code and in any enacted legislation as necessary due to the
8 enactment of this section.

9 Sec. 47. REPEAL. Sections 376.4A, 376.6, and 376.9, Code
10 2024, are repealed.

11 Sec. 48. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to elections held
12 on or after January 1, 2026.

13 EXPLANATION

14 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
15 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

16 This bill relates to nominations of candidates for elections
17 to city, school district, and merged area offices. The bill
18 requires candidates for such elections to be nominated by
19 primary elections held pursuant to Code chapter 43 (partisan
20 nominations — primary election). Currently such elections
21 are nonpartisan except for special charter cities under Code
22 chapter 420. The bill repeals other methods for the nomination
23 of candidates, including nominations by petition and runoff
24 elections. The bill requires political parties in school
25 districts to hold conventions for the nomination of members
26 to the school district central committee for the purpose of
27 holding primary elections in school districts and merged areas.
28 The bill applies to elections held on or after January 1, 2026.